

Defiance Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
August 26, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Defiance Public Library met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at the Johnson Memorial Library; notice of said meeting pursuant to O.R.C. 121 having been posted.

Vice President Beth Michel called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M. Board members in attendance were Chris Korhn, Sherri Hedge, Tammy Bowers, and Jenny Derringer. Dennis Sobecki was absent. Staff members present: Director Cara Potter, Interim Director Rob Giesige, CFO Kristi Keefer, Taryn Lawson, Angela Powell, and Elaine Talbert.

Visitors: Mark Weaner and Dawn Hostetler

Branch Manager Angela Powell updated the library board on the JML renovation. The shelving came in yesterday; the music garden is installed. Storage Solutions is scheduled to arrive soon. The shutters are ordered. Since installing the music garden, library card registrations have increased significantly.

The Finance Committee met on August 11, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. at the Defiance Public Library. Library Board Secretary Chris Korhn, Interim Director Rob Giesige, Director Cara Potter, and CFO Kristi Keefer attended. Chris Korhn reported to the library board that the July PLF came in at \$130,813.00, which is the estimated amount. The YTD 2026 PLF is 0.04% below the estimate. July was normal, with revenue and expenditure in line with the budget.

The Personnel Committee met on August 3, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. at 311 Fort Street, Defiance, Ohio, to discuss an interim director job description and posting. Committee Chair Beth Michel, Trustees Chris Korhn, Dennis Sobecki, Jenny Derringer, Tammy Bowers, Director Cara Potter, and CFO Kristi Keefer were present.

Beth Michel moved, and Chris Korhn seconded the motion to approve provisionally hiring Rob Giesige, if he applies for the interim position, at fifty percent of the director's hourly rate for 20 hours/week, to be reassessed monthly to ensure that both parties' needs are met. Motion Carried.

Chris Korhn, Sherri Hedge, and Mark Weaner updated the library board on the activities of the Friends of the Defiance Public, Johnson Memorial, and Sherwood Branch Libraries, respectively.

Consent Agenda

Jenny Derringer moved, and Sherri Hedge seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting July 29, 2026.
- Approval of the July 2026 Financial Reports as reviewed by the Finance Committee and approval of the payment of bills for August 2026.
- Approval of the Fiscal Officer's Report as presented.

The Year-to-Date General Fund Activity through July 31, 2026:

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,698,288.87
Revenue	+ 139,876.77

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Expenses	-	<u>205,045.31</u>
Month-End Balance	\$	2,633,120.33

July 2026 PLF: 130,813.24

- Approval of the Library Operations Report.
- DPLS Department Reports.
- Personnel
 - Approval of the appointment of Jo Ann Meyer as a 20 hour/week DPL circulation assistant. Her start date was August 10, 2026, with an hourly pay rate of \$12.83.
- Revenue and Appropriation Adjustments
 - Approval to accept donations from Hicksville Eagles, Ladies Auxiliary, and Mark and Betty Mayer.
 - Approval of an increase in General Fund Unrestricted Contributions & Gifts of \$525.00.
 - Approval of an increase in General Fund appropriations in SBL Services Supplies for \$500.00.
 - Approval of an increase in General Fund appropriations in SBL Adult Supplies for \$25.00.
 - Approval of a General Fund transfer of \$100.00 from PR Supplies to Other Library Material for the purpose of purchasing a replacement telescope for Library of Things.
 - Approval of a General Fund transfer of \$1,000.00 from Maintenance Services to Makerspace Supplies.

Motion Carried.

Items for Discussion:

Appointment of an Interim Director

Chris Korhn moved, and Tammy Bowers seconded, to appoint Robert Giesige as a part-time interim director for 20 hours/week, with a monthly stipend of \$2,147.00. This is a subcontracted position with no benefits and is renewable monthly. Motion Carried.

Director search timeline

The board discussed a possible timeline for recruiting a new director.

Sherri Hedge moved, and Tammy Bowers seconded, to have the personnel committee discuss the options. Motion carried.

Old Reference Desk

Kristi Kreffer spoke to the library board concerning the reference desk that was removed when the library re-acquired the original Carnegie desk. The reference desk is in a storage unit and was estimated at \$27,150.00 in value in 2017. The library board discussed listing the desk on the OPLIN listserv, then a possible auction if no other library is interested.

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Annex update

Director Potter has requested that design firm SHP change the basement staff wellness room to a storage room, as a wellness room will be rarely used.

The director asked the board if they would like the library to move ahead with the annex parking variance application before the November 3 levy vote. The board responded that they needed time to consider the issue and would share their thoughts individually with the library director to give her direction.

Maumee Valley Planning informed the director that the structures at 109 Jefferson and 319 Fort St are scheduled for demolition by the end of August. The library received a grant to cover demolition costs.

Levy Committee

Library Board Secretary Chris Korhn updated the library board on the Levy Committee. They met twice, and Trustee Korhn gave a big "thank-you" to Dawn Hostetler and Susan Mack for all their work. The remaining balance is now around \$1,900.00 of the \$4,000.00. The Friends of each location will donate money to the Levy Committee.

Other Items for Consideration.

Defiance County Tax Resolution

Below is the annual resolution the Library Board must pass to accept the levy amount approved by the Defiance County Budget Commission. The county auditor has estimated that the Defiance Public Library System will receive \$707,500 in 2027. CFO Kristi Keefer will certify the action of the board and submit a copy of the approved resolution to the county auditor's office.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED

Sherri Hedge moved, and Jenny Derringer seconded the motion to approve the Defiance County Tax Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Budget Commission of Defiance County, Ohio has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Defiance Public Library, Defiance County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates commencing January 1, 2027, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said County the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

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For the General Fund, the Amount Approved by Budget Commission Outside 10 Mill Limitation of \$707,500 with the County Auditor's Estimate of Tax to Be Levied of .75 Mills.
And be it further

RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Rolly Call Ayes: Chris Korhn, Beth Michel, Jenny Derringer, Sherri Hedge and Tammy Bowers.
Nays: None.
Motion Carried.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. at the Defiance Public Library.

Board Vice President Beth Michel adjourned the meeting at 5:52 P.M.

_____, President

_____, Secretary